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For Immediate Release

FCC FINES CHINESE RETAILER \$34.9 MILLION FOR MARKETING ILLEGAL 'JAMMERS'

WASHINGTON, May 25, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission today issued a \$34.9 million fine against C.T.S. Technology, a Chinese electronics manufacturer and online retailer, for marketing and selling signal jamming devices to U.S. consumers. So-called "jammers" are radio frequency transmitters that intentionally block, jam, or interfere with wireless communications, such as cellphone calls, GPS systems, Wi-Fi networks, and first-responder communications. It is a violation of federal law to market, sell, import, or use a signal jammer in the United States.

"In today's mobile world, cellular, GPS, and other signal jamming devices seriously jeopardize communications, business operations, and public safety," said Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis LeBlanc. "Marketing or selling these devices to the public is unlawful and comes with substantial penalties."

In 2014, the company marketed jammers to U.S. consumers through its own websites and third party platforms. These jammers ranged from small, concealable devices that would block cell phone or GPS communications for a radius of only a few yards, to high-powered jammers that could disrupt a wide range of communications systems for several blocks. The company's website falsely claimed that some jammers had been approved by the FCC, and advertised that the company could ship signal jammers to consumers in the United States.

Following an investigation by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, the Commission proposed a \$34,912,500 fine against C.T.S. Technology for its marketing of 285 jammer models in the U.S. The FCC also ordered the company to ensure that its marketing complied with Federal law. Although the company did not respond to the proposed fine, formally known as a Notice of Apparently Liability for Forfeiture, the company has since taken several measures that appear to bring its marketing into compliance with U.S. law prohibiting the marketing, sale, and import of signal jammers. Because the Commission did not receive any evidence from C.T.S. Technology to contradict the findings in the proposed fine, today's decision, formally a Forfeiture Order, affirms the full proposed fine against the company.

More information about the FCC's jammer enforcement efforts and a list of Frequently Asked Questions is available at https://www.fcc.gov/jammers.

To report the sale or use of an illegal jammer, contact the FCC through the <u>FCC online complaint</u> <u>portal</u>. Additional information, including the <u>FCC Consumer Alert</u> on the jamming prohibitions

and the <u>FCC Enforcement Advisories</u> regarding illegal signal jammers, is available at <u>www.fcc.gov/jammers.</u>

Today's Forfeiture Order against CTS can be found here: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs-public/attachmatch/FCC-16-67A1 Rcd.pdf

The Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture against CTS can be found here: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-14-92A1.pdf.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).